Title: Need to explore petroleum and natural gas from Cochin High.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, there is a lot of deficit in oil and natural gas sectors in the offshore regions, like South West Coast, especially near Cochin which is known as Cochin High. In Cochin High, exploration is continuing. We have information that a full-fledged well is going to be dug by ONGC by the end of next year, but the operations are going on at a very slow pace.[r40]

In the Budget, there is a statement about energy sector and exploration of our offshore for petroleum as well as natural gas. I would urge that the Government should take it up very seriously with the Cochin High and this operation should be expedited. I would honestly submit that the results will depend upon the speed with which the Government takes up this matter.